

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAB-01 AID-20 SAM-01

DRC-01 /165 W

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R 031510Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6993

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3847

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF

SUBJECT: PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL

REF: CAIRO 3749

SUMMARY. PALESTINAINS ARE IN MIDST OF WEEK LONG "PARLIAMENTARY"
SESSION DURING WHICH MODERATES (AND GOE) HOPE TO OBTAIN
MANDATE FOR PLO TO NEGOTIATE IN GENEVA FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A
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"PALESTINE NATIONAL AUTHORITY". MEETINGS SO FAR, ALL IN CLOSED

SESSION, HAVE REPORTEDLY FOUNDERED ON ACCEPTABILITY RES. 242 AS FRAMEWORK FOR GENEVA TALKS, BUT DETERMINATION OF MODERATES AND OF GOE TO GET THEIR CONTINUES UNABATED. END SUMMARY.

1. PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL (PNC), WHICH CONSIDERS ITSELF QUASE PARLIAMENT OF PALESTINE, CONVENED AT ARAB LEAGUE JUNE 1. MEETINGS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGH FRIDAY, THOUGH GROUP MAY TAKE TRIP TO SUEZ CANAL TUESDAY. PLENARY ADJOURNED MONDAY MORNING TO ALLOW GOE MINWAR AWARD "MILITARY STAR OF HONOR" TO BRIG. MANSUR AL-SHARIF, COMMANDER PLA UNITS IN OCTOBER WAR, BUT WILL MEET AGAIN MONDAY NIGHT.

2. SOME NEWSPAPER REPORTS SAY 145 DELEGATES ARE IN ATTENDANCE; OTHERS SAY 150. AHRAH LISTS 22 DELEGATES, 41 OBSERVERS, AND 35 DISTINGUISHED PALESTINIANS INCLUDING 8 DEPARTED FROM WEST BANK. PRESS SAYS ALL FACTIONS ARE REPRESENTED. AHMAD JIBRIL IS APPARENTLY NOT HERE, HOWEVER, AND PFLP/GC MAY NOT HAVE SENT DELEGATE. HABASH IS DEFINITELY NOT IN EGYPT; PFLP IS REPRESENTED BY AHMAD YAMANI (ABU MAHIR). HAWATIMAH IS PRESENT AND REPORTEDLY VOLUBLE.

3. INAUGURAL SESSION OPENED WITH SPEECHES BY CHAIRMAN FAHUM, ARAB LEAGUE SEC GEN RIAD, AND ARAFAT. MESSAGES WERE READ FROM SADAT AND CHOU EN LAI WHO "SUPPORTS" PALESTINE REVOLUTION. ALL SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS HAVE BEEN BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. NOT EVEN RIAD HAS BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

4. CAIRO NEWSPAPERS, WHICH HAVE BEEN DOMINATED BY NEWS PF PNC OVER WEEK-END, REPORT COUNCIL IS FOCUSING DISCUSSION ON PLO "PLAN OF ACTION". ASSUME THIS PROGRAM, DRAFTED RECENTLY IN BEIRUT, IS AVAILABLE TO ADDRESSEES. WE ARE STUCK BY FIFTH POINT AS REPORTED BY GUMHURIYYA WHICH SEEMS TO CALL FOR DEPOSITION OF HUSAYN: I.E., A CALL FOR "DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL RUEL" IN JORDAN TO FUSE WITH "PALESTINIAN ENTITY".

5. PRESS JUNE 3 REPORTS "HEATED DISCUSSION". AHRAH SAYS PFLP AND INDEPENDENTS OBJECTED VEHEMENTLY TO TEN POINT PROGRAM SINCE THEY WERE NOT PRIVY TO DRAFTING OF IT IN BEIRUT. AKHBAR SAYS FRICTION ROSE WHEN "EXTEMISTS" REJECTED PROGRAM CALLING IT A "SURRENDER", BUT THAT SHAFIQ AL-HUT SPOKE EFFECTIVELY

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STRESSING NECESSITY FOR UNITY AND COOPERATION. HE REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT RECRIMINATIONS AGAINST COMMAND ARE NOT IN ORDER AND COMMAND MUST BE TRUSTED AND GIVEN FREEDOM OF ACTION.

6. AGAIN ACCORDING TO PRESS, A "POLITICAL TESTAMENT" ALLEGEDLY WRITTEN BY THE THREE "MARTYRS" OF MAALOT WAS DISTRIBUTED JUNE 2 TO DELEGATES AND READ ALOUD BY CHAIRMAN FAHUM. MESSAGE WARNED THAT DIVISION AMONG THE PALESTINAINS WILL LEAD TO CATASTROPHE

AND URGED PNC TO ESTABLISH ON WEST BANK AND GAZA "A NATIONAL AUTHORITY" (SULTA WATANIYYA). AFTER THIS STEP, DUTY IS TO STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION OF ALL PALESTINE TO ESTABLISH DEMOCRATIC STATE. "WE BELIEVE" OUR CAUSE IS IN HANDS OF "FAITHFUL NATIONAL COMMAND" WHICH WILL LEAD US TO "NATIONAL AUTHORITY". REPORTEDLY, MESSAGE MAKES NO MENTION OF TERRORISM AS POLITICAL TOOL.

7. COMMENT: GOE PRESSURE FOR MODERATION AND COOPRATION HAS BEEN PLAYED UP IN PRESS ACCOUNTS AND COMMENTARIES. SADAT'S MESSAGE DWELT ON NECESSITY FOR UNITY AND "NATIONAL AUTHORITY" NOTION IS KNOWN TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOE. ALL PAPERS HAVE NOTED HIGH LEVEL GOE/PLO MEETINGS: FAHMY WITH SURANI MAY 31 AND ARAFAT ON JUNE 1 WITH SADAT AND FAHMY. ARAFAT TOGETHER WITH QADUMI AND ZUHAYR MUHSIN ALSO HAD MEETING WITH MAHMUD RIAD JUNE 2.

8. PRESS COMMENTARIES SEEM TO US TO REFLECT GOE WISHFUL THINKING. GUMHURIYYA, FOR EXAMPLE, SAID JUNE 2 THT PREVAILING TREND IN PNC IS TO GO TO GENEVA. AKHBAR AND AHARAM JUNE 3 STRESS PNC MUST CLOSE RANKS AND ADPT OVERALL STRATEGY. GHUMHURIYYA JUNE 3 RECALLS RESOLUTION 242 IS BASED ON PRINCIPLE OF INADMISSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING LAND BY FORCE AND WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF THIS PRINCIPLE PALESTINIANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO RETURN.

9. WELL-INFORMED JOURNALISTS HAVE TOLD US RES. 242 CONTINUES TO CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEM IN PNC. EXTREMISTS ARE REITERATING THEY WILL NOT BE TREATED AS SIMPLY A GROUP OF REFUGEES, WHILE MODERATES FEEL THAT PROBLEM OF PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF RES. 242 CAN BE SOLVED IF PNC ARTICULATES ITS "INTERPREATION" OF THE RESOLUTION.

10. WHETHER GOE AND PALESTINIAN MODERATES WILL BE ABLE TO BRING PNC TO MORE OR LESS UNIFIED DECISION TO GO TO GENEVA IS STILL CONFIDENTIAL

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MOOT POINT. ARAFAT AND SADAT ARE CLEARLY PUSHING HARD FOR A DECISION TO GO. "TESTAMENT" OF MAALOT "MARTYRS", STRESSING AS IT DOES "NATIONAL AUTHORITY" CONCEPT, MAY BE AN AWKWARD ATTEMPT BY HAWATIMAH TO INJECT HIMSELF BACK INTO MODERATE MAIN STREAM. GOE IS CLEARLY WORKING HARD TO BRING RECALCITRANT ELEMENTS AROUND. AS ONE EGYPTIAN HUMORIST PUT IT: "THEY CAN'T GO HOME UNTIL THEY AGREE."
EILTS

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